

3 Swedes sentenced to prison in Iraq

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Three Swedish engineers were sentenced Sunday to seven years in prison in Iraq for illegally crossing the border from Kuwait. Sweden's foreign ministry said. The trial and verdict took Sweden by surprise. As late as Friday, the foreign ministry said Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammad Saeed Al Sabah, reported the investigation of the Swedes' trespass was incomplete. "The verdict is incomprehensible and quite unacceptable and out of proportion, considering the violation," said Swedish Foreign Minister Margaretha Al Ugglas. "It's obvious that the three Swedes made a mistake when they crossed the border." Christer Stromgren, Stefan Wihlborg, and Leif Westerberg were employed by the Swedish telecommunications company Ericsson to build base stations for a mobile telephone network in northern Kuwait. The Swedish government said they lost their way driving between stations and accidentally crossed into Iraq on Sept. 3, where they were arrested and taken to Baghdad. In early September, Britain sent a strong protest to Iraq after revealing that two British men had recently been handed what London called "grotesque" sentences for illegally entering the country.

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ESCWA opens meeting in Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdel Jabbar will open in Damascus Monday a workshop on the implications of new advanced materials technology for the economies of ESCWA countries. The workshop, which will last till Sept. 24, is co-sponsored by the Scientific Studies and Research Centre and the Arab School for Science and Technology in Syria. The workshop will deal with issues related to the economic and social implications of the vast developments and changes that are taking place in the world in materials technology, production process and production systems.

Iran denies killing Kurds in Berlin

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has denied it was behind the killing of four Kurds in Berlin last week and said the incident was part of a plot to discredit it. The official news agency IRNA Sunday quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Tehran condemned the killings and was ready to cooperate with the German investigation. "The incident has taken place in continuation of the activities carried out against Iran in the past few months and the propaganda on human rights (violations)," he said. Two gunmen shot at eight officials of the Iranian Democratic Party of Kurdistan at a Greek restaurant Thursday night, killing party General Secretary Sadegh Sharafkandi and three other party officials. German police said they suspected the gunmen were Iranian. Kurdish exiles as well as the Mujahedeen-e-Khalq, Iran's main opposition group, accused the Iranian secret service of the killings.

British defence chief meets Saudi leaders

JEDDAH (AP) — British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind, whose country is a major arms supplier to Saudi Arabia, met with some of the kingdom's top leaders Sunday. Mr. Rifkind held talks with Crown Prince Abdullah and Defence Minister Prince Sultan but no details were published. British officials said only that Mr. Rifkind would be staying a couple of days in the kingdom and might visit the capital Riyadh. Jeddah is the government's summer base.

Endeavour lands

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — The U.S. space shuttle Endeavour landed safely Sunday, ending an eight-day science mission for Japan that featured that country's first professional astronaut. The shuttle and its crew of seven landed at 8:53 a.m. EDT (12:53 GMT), about 90 minutes behind schedule because of rain clouds spotted earlier Sunday near the Kennedy Space Centre. The 50th shuttle mission by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) broke cultural and social barriers. Officials said the mission also demonstrated the ability of the United States and Japan to cooperate on science and technology projects.

UAE gives U.S. \$5 million in aid

WASHINGTON (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has promised \$5 million to help the victims of hurricane Andrew, the American Red Cross said. The gift was the second largest the Red Cross has received since hurricane Andrew slammed into south Florida and Louisiana last month. Last week Kuwait gave \$10 million to Red Cross efforts to provide food, clothing, shelter and other aid to the thousands affected by the hurricane, the agency said.

Kurdish rebels kill Turkish politician

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish separatists have killed a local politician and two other civilians in the southeast, the semi-official Anadolu news agency said Sunday. Guerrillas of the banned Kurdistan Labour Party (PKK) shot dead Nizamettin Acan, local chairman of the Social Democrat Populist Party in the town of Sivas, and two other men at a PKK road block Saturday night, the agency said.

French voters seen narrowly endorsing Maastricht Treaty

PARIS (Agencies) — French voters narrowly approved the controversial treaty on European union, according to early, unofficial television projections of a referendum followed anxiously in capitals and financial markets worldwide.

Each of the two main television channels released projections exactly as polls closed at 8 p.m. (1800 GMT). France 2 estimated the outcome at 51 to 49 per cent in favour of the so-called Maastricht Treaty, while TF1 projected the result at 51.5 to 48.5.

Official results were not expected for several hours, but projections from other polling firms conformed with the usually reliable television projections.

Final official results were not to be announced until Tuesday because of complications getting returns from Polynesia, French Guyana and other distant territories.

Approval of the treaty, after a bitter campaign, would keep alive the European Community's hopes for political and economic union that could elevate it to superpower status.

Defeat of the treaty could have unleashed renewed turmoil in

world financial markets, damaged the stature of French and other European leaders who promoted the accord, and forced the European Community (EC) into a fundamental reassessment of its future.

The projections, based on early results from the provinces, where polls closed at 1600 GMT, were broadcast on radio and television at 1800 GMT as the last polling booths in big cities closed.

Education Minister Jack Lang, coordinator of the Socialist government's "yes" campaign, immediately claimed victory.

"I am proud that a majority of the French people have chosen Europe. It is a victory for France, a victory for Europe," he said in a television interview.

If confirmed, the result would put ratification of European political, economic and monetary union back on track after a setback in June when Denmark voted "no."

But the margin of French public support could be too small to appear convincing in other EC countries which have not yet ratified the treaty.

Growing opposition in Britain, fuelled by last week's currency

crisis, means it is still not certain that the treaty providing for a single EC currency by 1999 and a common foreign and security policy will come into force as planned on Jan. 1, 1993.

Most of France's political, business and media establishment supported the treaty but a coalition of hardline Gaullists, the extreme-right National Front, the Communist Party and dissident socialists ran a vigorous campaign for a "no."

The referendum was widely viewed as having more international ramifications than any election in French history, although it did not threaten the EC itself.

Voters were asked a single question: "Do you approve the bill submitted to the French people by the president of the republic authorizing the ratification of the treaty on European union?"

Backers say the treaty would help transform the trading bloc of 338 million people into a political and economic superpower that

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Third World completes currency reform; G-7 pledges close cooperation, page 7

Rafsanjani accuses neighbours of 'conspiring' against Iran

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani Sunday charged that Arab claims to a disputed Gulf island were part of an anti-Iran plot, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said.

Arab states have protested Iran's decision earlier this month to claim full sovereignty over the strategic Abu Musa Island in the Strait of Hormuz, the only entrance to the oil-rich Gulf.

Iran previously shared administration of the island with the Emirate of Sharjah, which is part of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The fuss created "confirms that the enemies are attempting to create problems for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore we should be vigilant and remain alert to confront such plots," IRNA quoted Mr. Rafsanjani as telling religious leaders in Tehran.

IRNA also quoted Parliament

Jordan supports UAE position

AMMAN (J.T.) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said Sunday Jordan hopes that the dispute between the United Arab Emirates and Iran over Abu Musa Island will be resolved in a brotherly manner.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Dr. Abu Jaber said that Jordan, as it expressed at a recent Arab League meeting, supports the UAE in the dispute.

"Our stance always stems from fully supporting our Arab brethren in all their just causes," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri as warning "the regional sheikhs... to refrain from any

action that may disturb peace."

Mr. Nateq-Nouri, who was addressing a parliament session, added that while Iran respected the territorial integrity of its neighbours, "it considers its own territorial integrity indisputable and stands firm to defend its soil."

Instead of issuing statements and holding meetings, the Arab states should solve the problem through talks with Iran, he said. This would prevent the United States from using the dispute as a pretext for intervening in the region, he added.

Earlier, the English-language Tehran Times newspaper expressed surprise that Syria would pre-empt itself as a possible mediator.

On Saturday, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharrar visited Tehran and delivered a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to Mr. Rafsanjani.

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Algeria unveils austerity plan

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's new government has promised its 26 million people austerity and more taxes but offered incentives to foreign investors in an ambitious plan to achieve a market economy and end violence.

In a programme unveiled at the weekend, it warned "rigorous austerity, drastically reducing the need to import" was coming.

The rich will be taxed more on income, with a separate tax on assets, tax breaks will go to innovative firms replacing imported goods and imports competing locally will be banned.

A "vast field of activities" will open for local and foreign investors with incentives, including favourable exchange rates for investment by Algerians living abroad and by foreigners.

If that, and efforts to attract more foreign finance to increase oil and gas production do not work, "the government will be forced to call on the people for greater austerity."

The bleak outlook was set despite fears expressed by some Algerian and foreign diplomats that poverty already fuels the Muslim fundamentalist movement which has plagued the country into over a year of unrest.

At the heart of the crisis lies repayments and servicing of a \$26-billion foreign debt, which takes 70 per cent of the \$12 billion

earned each year from oil and gas exports.

The government plans to continue "refinancing" the debt — provided "it does not dangerously mortgage the future of the economy or impose compromising economic and social solutions."

Algeria spends more than \$2 billion of what is left, on food imports, leaving factories operating at under 30 per cent as old machinery collapses, with no spares, and raw materials run out.

The 68-page plan broke two months' silence which had drawn increasing criticism as factories shut and more security forces and officials were ambushed and killed.

The attacks are blamed generally on extremists linked to the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which before being outlawed took a strong lead in a general election which was then cancelled.

The government blamed 1980s mismanagement for the economic crisis, founded on debt, erosion of state authority — leading to violence — high inflation and rampant population growth.

It warned that nine million more mouths would need feeding by the end of this century, a situation it described as "serious and dangerous." But it vowed the

march to a market economy would go on.

"The government's work programme sets out the conditions to achieve, in a progressive and organised fashion, a market economy, founded on a consistent local production fully open to the outside world," it said.

More state intervention must come in allocating scarce foreign currency but this was "not through ideological choice or any attachment to (central) economic management," the government said.

Foreign currency will go only to key sectors, including building, agriculture, food, education and health.

Many commentators and diplomats had feared a return to the 1970s socialist economy. "From my first reading, it is encouraging," said one Western diplomat on Sunday. "And we need something encouraging."

The government took over in July in changes after the assassination of head of state Mohamed Bouiaf.

It plans a multi-tier exchange rate, in cooperation with the International Monetary Fund, over three years, aimed at making the dollar currency freely convertible.

Laws on money and credit and commerce will be revised and an investment code for foreigners drawn up, with free trade zones.



King returns Thursday; public holiday declared

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein will return home Thursday after recuperating from surgery he underwent at an American hospital last month, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker announced Sunday.

A separate Royal Court announcement, also reported by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Thursday was declared a public holiday. All government offices, schools and banks and most private sector companies will be closed.

The King, who is now in

London where he arrived early this month, is expected to visit Jordanian soldiers serving with U.N. peace-keepers in Croatia in former Yugoslavia before returning home, sources said in Amman.

In his announcement, Sharif Zeid said the King had made a complete recovery from the surgery at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minnesota, which removed a kidney.

A tumultuous welcome to greet the King upon his return is being arranged. Over 53,000 students from schools in the Greater Amman area and

2,500 scouts will gather along the road from the airport, waving posters of the King and the national flag, to greet His Majesty.

Amman streets are decorated with banners celebrating the King's recovery and buildings have been draped with coloured lights in anticipation of His Majesty's return home.

Reports in the local press said a general amnesty would be declared for prisoners in celebration of the King's recovery. It was not known how many would be covered under the amnesty.

Israel expects talks with Syria to go on

Combined agency dispatches

TEL AVIV — An Israeli minister said Israel and Syria would resume peace talks in Washington Monday despite deep disagreement over when to start discussing Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Golan Heights.

"I understand a way, a formula was found for them to return to the negotiating table," Interior Minister Arye Deri told Israel Radio Sunday after a meeting of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's cabinet.

The chief Syrian negotiator, Moawafik Al Alai, broke off the talks earlier than expected last Thursday, saying they ground to a halt whenever Syria raised its demand for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

"We hope the sponsors, especially the United States, will intercede this weekend in order to secure the non-interruption of the peace process because of this Israeli attitude," he said.

Mr. Rabin has said Israel will not discuss withdrawal until Syria says what it means by peace. It wants Syria to commit itself to diplomatic relations and open borders first.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, was more cautious about whether the talks would go ahead Monday. "We are hopeful that the negotiations will resume as scheduled," he said.

Washington said it did not plan to expand its role but acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger was likely to meet both foreign ministers at the United Nations this week.

Mr. Deri said the Syrians staged an impasse in the hope of forcing the United States to intervene on their side. But he added: "When they understood Israel is opposed and the Americans are not enthusiastic, they dropped the matter."

Unexpected progress in the Israeli-Syrian talks had overshadowed Israel's separate negotia-

tions with Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians, which also resume in Washington.

Mr. Rabin took office in July with a promise to accelerate the U.S.-sponsored talks.

Mr. Rabin told the cabinet that after this week's meetings the peace talks would probably not resume until after the U.S. elections on Nov. 3.

A participant quoted Mr. Rabin as saying Israel had proposed another round in October but neither the Arabs nor the Americans were enthusiastic.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres planned to meet with the Israeli delegation while he is in New York this week for the opening of the United Nations General Assembly session, Israel Television said.

Mr. Peres said Friday that Israel would never withdraw from the entire Golan and that any withdrawal would not be discussed until Syria and Israel defined the peace.

He said he saw the Syrian threat to quit the talks as a "tactical crisis" designed to increase American intervention in the talks, something Israel opposes.

The United States Friday played down suggestions that the talks might be in serious danger and said it had no plans for an expanded direct U.S. role at this point in the process.

Israel Police Minister Moshe Shaleh acknowledged on Israel Radio that he has set up a committee to draw up plans to transfer policing powers to a Palestinian force once autonomy in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip is in place.

Palestinian and Israeli delegations to the peace talks are currently negotiating the details of the autonomy at the peace talks.

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U.S. Senate panel approves Israel loan guarantees, page 2

U.S., Jordan hold joint military exercises

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Officials confirmed Sunday that Jordan and the United States carried out joint military manoeuvres last week for the first time in three years, but they played down the significance of the move saying these are routine military exercises that are carried out with other countries like Britain and France.

A senior official said the week-long exercises, which ended last Thursday, aim at "improving the air defence system as part of a programme that was revived after a two-year suspension."

The official, who asked not to be quoted by name, said the exercises were scheduled to take place in June but were delayed "for technical reasons."

According to this and other government officials, the exercises were part of a regular training programme which has no political implications. They said the Jordanian Armed Forces also hold joint exercises on regular basis with other countries, especially Britain and France.

The U.S. Defence Department indefinitely postponed joint military exercises with Jordan last June to emphasise American claims at the time that the Kingdom was not fully committed to the implementation of economic sanctions against Iraq.

Washington froze military aid to Jordan at the height of the Gulf crisis in 1990 in protest against Jordan's sympathy with Iraq.

The United States last held joint exercises with the Jordanian Armed Forces before the Gulf crisis.

Jordanian-American relations had begun to improve after His Majesty King Hussein visited Washington in March. The King

10 Palestinian groups join hands to oppose Mideast peace talks

By Mariam M. Shahin

Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As round six of Arab-Israeli peace talks resumed last Monday in Washington, Palestinian scepticism has grown over the direction the talks are taking. In a rare show of unity 10 Palestinian parties, from within and outside the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), issued a joint statement that calls for an immediate withdrawal of Palestinian negotiators from the talks and a protest strike among Palestinians living under occupation and the diaspora on Sept. 23.

Most of the 10 groups are Damascus-based and long-time foes who got together for the first time in years, bringing together Marxists and Islamists in what many analysts believe is the strongest single opposition group to the peace talks.

In their joint statement the opposition forces stressed their opposition to an "administrative solution," said the Palestinian delegation to the talks has "no authority to sign 'any document,' that the PLO 'bears the responsibility if the Palestinian historical rights are undermined and surrendered,' called for an immediate halt to the negotiations and a withdrawal of the Palestinian delegation from the talks and asked the Palestinian people to voice their objections to the ongoing 'liquidation plans.'"

"We are against the sellout that is going on in Washington right now," said a spokesperson for one of the parties, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP).

Members of the coalition fear that the Palestinian delegation to the Washington talks is under

severe pressure to agree to an initial agreement with the Israelis before the American elections take place in November.

"The Americans will put pressure on the Palestinians, especially since they are in less of a position to pressure the Syrians now," said the DFLP spokesman in Amman, Ahmad Al Jamal, shortly after the Syrian-Israeli track of the talks had come to a standstill.

"The U.S. president has to be able to tell his constituents that the U.S. administration has been able to achieve tangible results with the peace talks; thus he will pressure the Palestinians to sign some version of the Israeli (proposed) interim self-government arrangement and three quarters of our rights will be signed away forever," said Mr. Jamal.

(Continued on page 5)

Talks fail to halt Kabul battles

KABUL (R) — Frantic negotiations by Afghan government mediators failed to halt three days of fierce exchanges of rocket fire between Sunni extremists and a rival Shiite faction in Kabul's western suburbs Sunday.

At least eight people have been killed and 200 injured, most of them combatants, in battles that erupted Friday in a residential suburb already virtually reduced to rubble by numerous clashes between the two groups.

Fighters of the Iran-backed Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat were firing multi-barrelled rocket launchers, with as many as 10 rockets a minute early in the day, at positions held by the Saudi Arabian-backed Sunni Ittehad-e-Islami, witnesses said.

Women wearing burkas and wailing with fear fled the indiscriminate hail of rockets on the Khushal Mena suburb. Heavy machinegun fire clattered from rooftops.

One man lay bleeding in an empty street and bloody footprints led into the remains of one destroyed house. Rockets struck a bakery and a red cross clinic.

A column of smoke rose from a fire near the frontlines as the intense exchanges slowed slightly by the evening.

Ittehad had rejected a ceasefire offer from Hezb-e-Wahdat "because they started the fighting," one commander said.

Hezb-e-Wahdat had broken all previous truces, he said.

The government was trying to negotiate a new ceasefire, Defence Ministry spokesman Yunus Qanun said. The two parties have clashed several times since the Mujahedeen toppled the former communist government and entered Kabul in late April.

"We have contact with both sides, but both express their own viewpoint," he said.

The head of another peace delegation said it was pulling out

because of the ferocity of the fighting and several members were missing.

A 500-strong peace-keeping supposed to take up positions in a buffer zone between the two sides had yet to be deployed, Mr. Qanun said.

"Of course without a doubt it is very dangerous, but we don't have any alternative."

Street positions were marked by green flags of Wahdat and the white of Ittehad flapping above ruined houses.

Fighters from the two groups were entrenched in foxholes and bunkers, their frontlines barely 30 metres apart.

The fighting appeared to have been started by foot soldiers without orders from senior commanders. It was the latest in a series of clashes indicating that Mujahedeen leaders are losing control of their fighters as they try to secure

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Governor: Chaotic conditions prompted ban of street vendors in Amman...

By Lacey Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Amman Governor Issa Omari is promising "smooth treatment" of vendors when they are evicted from pavements next week, pitting the priority of cleaner streets against income for an estimated 1,200 people — many of whom are Iraqis and children.

On Friday, the municipality banned vendors from the capital's streets and will move them to designated areas in Amman. The municipality also banned people from sleeping in parks, public gardens and on pavements.

"Conditions in Amman are not acceptable. People are forced to walk in the street because of vendors selling on pavements," Governor Issa Omari told the Jordan Times on Sunday. He added that unlicensed sidewalk sellers also pose health hazards by eating and urinating on the streets.

"But at stake are not only jobs for many of Jordan's unemployed, but a source of income for a growing number of Iraqis fleeing a country where rampant inflation has put food out of reach of millions."

"If I'm forced to leave my spot," said an Iraqi woman crowded next to a street vendor, "I'll have to return to Baghdad. Then what will I do?"

The women are one of about 400 Iraqis plying their personal belongings and cheap Baghdad wares on pavements downtown, according to Labour Minister and acting Information Minister Abdul Kareem Kabariti, who denied the crackdown on vendors was aimed at Iraqis.

"We are not singling out any nationality. Both the Amman Municipality and the Ministry are trying to remove all vendors from downtown," Mr. Kabariti said.

Friday's decision to remove unlicensed pavement vendors, who sell everything from watches to cigarettes to gum, was prompted by the "random chaotic conditions which were harming public health and the social and security situation and impeding the flow of traffic," according to an announcement by Mr. Omari.

"From a legal point of view, people are not allowed to sell on pavements. I don't think most of them are without money or work," Mr. Omari said.

Amman Deputy Fakhri Kawar sees the issue differently, given Jordan's unofficial 30 to 35 per cent unemployment rate.

"Going after these vendors seems to be done in isolation from the facts of the economic crisis, unemployment and increased poverty," he said in a column in Al Rai Arabic daily.

"Those sleeping on cold pavements surely did not leave the comforts of their homes to do so. Aren't we pushing those people to commit acts that we dread to see happen in our society?" Mr. Kawar asked.

Mr. Omari defends his decision saying that Amman's streets are too narrow to allow any vendors to sell on pavements. There are about 100 licensed vendors in Amman but they are only allowed to sell from kiosks.

According to Sabri Rbeihat, a senior research advisor, at the Public Security Department, unlicensed merchants, a large number of them children, can earn as much as JD10 a day. He roughly estimates that 60 per cent of the 1,200 transient hawkers depend on their trade as a sole income source or an important subsidy of family expenses.

Mr. Rbeihat said peddler incomes will probably plummet if vendors are restricted to municipality designated areas.

Street children rely on the ability to spot potential buyers who are walking down the street and then appeal to their emotions to buy their wares.

"If you put them all together it becomes more like a profession in the eyes of the buyer," Mr. Rbeihat said, doubting street children will obey regulations.

Older peddlers too could see a drop in sales.

"People do not go to the market knowing what they want. They buy whatever appeals to their taste at the time they are walking down the street," he said. The power of the unlicensed sellers is that they can strategically position themselves.

"To put them all together will turn these areas into another produce or market place, which is what these people are trying to avoid," he said, adding he believed few sellers will follow regulations.

Similar municipal campaigns have failed in the past. The most disastrous was in the early eighties when about 1,000 peddlers were roughly rounded up and their merchandise "dumped" at a square downtown. They returned to their sidewalk stations a few weeks later as police became lax in enforcing regulations, according to a Jordanian journalist.

Mr. Omari, however, says vendors can sell every Monday at the bustling Abdali bus station and Jabel Amman, and daily at Al Mahta. The Municipality has promised to provide sanitary facilities and sweep the area daily.

Few, however, appear drawn by the improved working conditions.

As Jamal, a huckster of perfume, hair combs and pencils at Hashemiyah Square said, "this is my only job and I know my buyers. When the police come, I leave, but I always come back."

Yemeni patients will receive the same treatment Jordanian patients get at Al Hussein Medical Centre, which is operated by the Royal Medical Services, and Yemeni patients will be exempted from paying half of the extra charge imposed on non-Jordanians, according to the provisions of the agreement.

Yemeni cancer patients will be exempted from paying 50 per cent of the total cost of medical treatment and radiation sessions at the government Bashir Hospital in Amman and private hospitals, and Jordanian doctors and specialists will charge all Yemeni patients the minimum level of fees set by the Health Ministry and the Jordanian Medical Association, according to the agreement.

The two sides agreed that Yemeni doctors and specialists receive training at Jordanian Health Ministry hospitals, particularly in general surgery, gynaecology and obstetrics, nuclear medicine and community medicine as well as other specialisations. They agreed also that Health Ministry will exempt Yemeni doctors undergoing training here from training fees. Yemen, however, will provide materials for training purposes.

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Hundreds of street vendors will no longer be allowed to operate in the streets of Amman (File photo)

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Sunday left Amman for New York at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the U.N. General Assembly meetings, which started on Sept. 15.

In a statement before departure, the minister said that the Jordanian delegation will present an address tackling various important issues on the Jordanian and Arab arenas, including the Palestine question and the Middle East situation in general.

He said that Jordan will inform the General Assembly of its approval of the idea to make the Middle East a zone free of all mass destruction weapons.

The Jordanian delegation will respond positively to a U.N. Secretary General annual report on "the peace agenda" which will be debated by the U.N. assembly in its present session, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He said that the Jordanian address to the U.N. General Assembly will present the Kingdom's "principled stand" with regard to the ongoing Middle East peace process which, he said, should be based on international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions providing for the exchange of land for peace.

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Abu Jaber heads delegation to U.N. session

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Sunday left Amman for New York at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the U.N. General Assembly meetings, which started on Sept. 15.

In a statement before departure, the minister said that the Jordanian delegation will present an address tackling various important issues on the Jordanian and Arab arenas, including the Palestine question and the Middle East situation in general.

He said that Jordan will inform the General Assembly of its approval of the idea to make the Middle East a zone free of all mass destruction weapons.

The Jordanian delegation will respond positively to a U.N. Secretary General annual report on "the peace agenda" which will be debated by the U.N. assembly in its present session, Dr. Abu Jaber said.

He said that the Jordanian address to the U.N. General Assembly will present the Kingdom's "principled stand" with regard to the ongoing Middle East peace process which, he said, should be based on international legitimacy and U.N. Security Council resolutions providing for the exchange of land for peace.

Similar municipal campaigns have failed in the past. The most disastrous was in the early eighties when about 1,000 peddlers were roughly rounded up and their merchandise "dumped" at a square downtown. They returned to their sidewalk stations a few weeks later as police became lax in enforcing regulations, according to a Jordanian journalist.

Mr. Omari, however, says vendors can sell every Monday at the bustling Abdali bus station and Jabel Amman, and daily at Al Mahta. The Municipality has promised to provide sanitary facilities and sweep the area daily.

Few, however, appear drawn by the improved working conditions.

As Jamal, a huckster of perfume, hair combs and pencils at Hashemiyah Square said, "this is my only job and I know my buyers. When the police come, I leave, but I always come back."

Yemeni patients will receive the same treatment Jordanian patients get at Al Hussein Medical Centre, which is operated by the Royal Medical Services, and Yemeni patients will be exempted from paying half of the extra charge imposed on non-Jordanians, according to the provisions of the agreement.

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New programme provides developers with quick access to archaeological information

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A three-day conference on Cultural Resources Management (CRM) in Jordan Sunday discussed a computer database system that will store information about Archaeological sites in the country. The programme, Jordan antiquities Database and Information System (JADIS), will provide Department of Antiquities inspectors and developers with immediate access to information necessary in assessing land use and construction plans.

It is impossible to save all archaeological sites in Jordan but it is extremely important that they are documented, CRM consultant Gaetano Palumbo said.

The CRM conference, which is organised by the American Centre for Oriental Research (ACOR) and the Department of Antiquities, opened in Amman Saturday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

In an address to the conference, Prince Hassan called for the creation of an information system on the environment that will enable all concerned people to cooperate to achieve their common interests. He expressed hope that the gathering will come up with a study aiming at founding an organisation on cultural resources management. The Regent stressed the importance of salvaging cultural heritage, saying that could be achieved through investment in human resources.

The CRM project was first implemented in Jordan in 1987 as a joint undertaking by the Department of Antiquities and ACOR. The programme aims at providing a mechanism for protecting the country's cultural heritage from urban development.

By identifying archaeological sites in the Kingdom and enhancing coordination among the Department of Antiquities, other government organisations and international development agencies, the CRM will reduce the threat posed to such sites by random construction and urban development.

Once the CRM programme is finalised, said ACOR Director Pierre Bikai, archaeological sites will be "easily protected."

In the past, Mr. Bikai said, the protection consisted of salvage operations at sites already partially destroyed by construction. But salvage is not enough, he said, and coordination among concerned authorities before construction projects begin is a must.

CRM Director at the Department of Antiquities Abdul Sami' Abu Dayeh pointed out that cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works allowed the department to start excavation operations before construction started at many sites. He also said the ministry started taking the department's recommendations into consideration during early phases of construction projects.

"The CRM programme is like a map beneath a map. The modern map is our modern roads and buildings, and the ancient map ranges from any time depending on the archaeological sites in question," Dr. Palumbo said.

"With some 20,000 discovered archaeological sites in Jordan, and judging by (recent) excavations (works), it is estimated that there are at least 10,000 sites around. This is a heritage well worth protecting," Dr. Palumbo said.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Syrian Minister of Telecommunications Radwan Martini is due here Monday for talks with his Jordanian counterpart Jamal Saraih on means of bolstering Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in telecommunications field.

The talks are expected to end with the signing of an agreement for linking Syrian-Jordanian telecommunications networks according to the Jordan New Agency, Petra.

The Syrian minister will be accompanied by the director general of the Syrian telecommunications corporation and other officials, Petra said.

The meeting in Amman comes one week after the convening of a two-day conference attended by delegates from Arab countries to discuss improvement of postal and telecommunications services among their countries.

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Japan's indispensable role

THE THIRD Arab-Japanese Dialogue provided another propitious occasion to search for ways and means to deepen relations between the two countries on many fronts. The two-day meeting in Amman, organised by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) in cooperation with the National Institute of Research Advancement (NIRA) in Japan has a wealth of experience on how to go about achieving that objective, having held similar meetings in the past in both countries. This time around, the Third Arab-Japanese Dialogue has convened against the backdrop of the emergence of a new international order and the resumption of Middle East peace talks in earnest in Washington. In his keynote address to the Japanese and Arab participants, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had set the tone of the deliberations by referring to two fundamental issues facing the conference. The first is Jordan's readiness to forge regional cooperation and coordination with other countries in the area. The second is the pressing need to remodel the existing moribund structures of international relations. On both counts, Japan's role is indispensable. If one takes up the last point first, there is obviously no way the democratisation of the U.N. system can be attained without integrating countries such as Japan and Germany into the U.N. Security Council as permanent members. As the Regent reminded his audience, the existing membership structure of the Security Council reflects old balances of power that are no longer valid or tenable.

The clear new global and regional players in international relations are Tokyo and Bonn. Other regional representatives must also be recognised and accorded their due on the council, especially from the African and Latin American countries. Since the U.N. General Assembly's 1992 session has just started in New York, it would be appropriate to pursue this corrective policy right away. Jordan is among those countries which are in a unique position to spearhead this initiative in view of their recognised international standing. A proposal from Jordan or a like-minded country along these lines would be viewed as especially credible in light of the fact that we have no special interest in the promotion of the idea.

With regard to the other theme of the dialogue, namely the promotion of regional cooperation on all levels, there is no doubt that such a grand scheme is one that can best be pursued when conditions of peace have been attained between Israel and the Arab countries. The trend in the world is to forge regional coordination efforts aiming at creating regional common markets. Such a bold plan for the Middle East calls for the existence of just and durable peace conditions as a matter of priority. Without the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, including of course its Palestinian dimension, the ambitious goal of establishing regional cooperation would remain a distant dream. This is something that only the countries of the region can achieve with the help and support of the old and new global powers. Even then, the infrastructure of the projected economic cooperation among the nations of the region would need international support. There is an obvious place for Japan in these two endeavours. The proven clout of Japan on the political and economic levels can be the very kind of catalyst that the region of the Middle East urgently needs for its enduring stability and progress.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

THE MORE Israel sticks to its adamant policies with regard to the occupied Arab lands, the stronger Jordan's conviction becomes of the need for pan-Arab solidarity, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. Jordan has always called on the Arab regimes to transcend their differences and come to an agreement on the basic issues, and in view of the challenges facing the nation, Jordan can only renew the call on the Arabs to adopt a unified stand where their destiny is concerned, the paper stressed. The paper referred to the intransigent position adopted by Israel at the peace negotiations in Washington and said that the Arabs are invited to act in concert to put an end to Israel's obstinacy and terminate its criminal behaviour against the Arab population in the occupied lands. No one, but the Arabs themselves, can achieve the aspired peace and no one else can help the nation fulfil its aspirations of regaining its usurped rights and their lands, the daily stressed. Nothing less than full solidarity and strong bridges of understanding and cooperation can help the Arabs achieve their goals, added the daily. As long as they remain divided and in disarray, the paper concluded, there can be no hope for them to attain real progress and prosperity.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily criticised a decision taken by Amman governor of removing street vendors from the streets and various districts and around schools in Amman as a miscalculated step. Fakr al Kassar said that those who sell their merchandise on the streets are poor people and were driven to this kind of profession by lack of proper jobs that can ensure decent living for their families. The writer said that he supported well-studied plans to enable these vendors to organise their work under the supervision of concerned government departments in a manner that would ensure their livelihoods. But, he said, by banning vendors from going to the streets to sell a few items to eke out some income for their families the Amman governor has now stopped the trickle of income and the lifeline of the poor families under very difficult conditions facing the country as a whole. These vendors on the streets of Amman indeed give clear indication that unemployment has reached dangerous proportions in the Kingdom, but by stopping them from practising their trading, the governor has sentenced their families to death, the writer continued. The governor's office might reply and say that it is not its business to find decent work for these vendors or find a sleeping place for those who are now sleeping on the pavements, but the governor could have consulted with other government departments in charge of social development before issuing this order, the writer added. He said society should not push these unfortunate people in the streets to go astray and commit offences harmful to society as a whole.

By John Pilger

THE CURRENT Western threat to bomb Iraq was reported widely as "necessary to protect the Shiites." During the Gulf war, American and British bombs almost certainly killed more Shiites (and Kurds) than Saddam Hussein ever did. But this was not reported: it was irrelevant to the accredited "story."

Diminishing Western culpability is, of course, standard media practice in most global matters. Here again, Iraq offers a striking example. Unlike the horrors of Bosnia, the fact that the West is today waging war against the children of Iraq holds no media interest. Thanks to a few — the voluntary aid agencies, the Harvard medical teams, Victoria Britain of the Guardian — careful readers will know that as a direct result of U.S. and British-led sanctions against Iraq, a million Iraqi children are seriously malnourished and more than 100,000 are seriously ill and likely to die before 1992 is over. In its last study, the Harvard team said Iraqi infants were "the most traumatised children of war ever described." Like the slaughter that preceded it in the Gulf military adventure, the unthinkable had been normalised.

To understand this concept, in war and peace, is to glimpse how brainwashing works in a modern "media society" like Britain. As the American commentator Edward S. Herman pointed out following the "famous victory" in the Gulf: "Doing terrible things in an organised and systematic way rests on 'normalisation.' There is usually a division of labour in doing and rationalising the unthinkable, with the direct brutalising and killing done by one set of individuals (and others working on improving technology (such as) bomb fragments that penetrate flesh in hard-to-trace patterns. It is the function of the experts, and the mainstream media, to normalise the unthinkable for the general public."

Thus, in his TV review of 1991, Clive James could make the Gulf war the joke of the year and can hardly a ripple; and a corner in Oxford could hand down an "unlawful killing" verdict on the deaths of nine British soldiers killed by U.S. "friendly fire" without a single reference in the media to what the American writer Michael Albert has called "one of the more wanton, cowardly massacres in modern military history."

According to the former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, the U.S., Britain and their "allies" caused the deaths of between 125,000 and 300,000 Iraqi men, women and children, none of them the subject of a British inquest or even an international inquiry convened by the United

Nations, in whose name the slaughter was initiated. This was a war, declared one editorial writer, in which "miraculously small numbers of casualties" were sustained.

Unlike in the old communist world, "normalisation" is carried out not with tanks but illusions, notably that of free expression. We are told constantly we are living in an "information society" when, in truth, we are now part of a media society in which unrestricted information is unwelcome, even a threat and the obsolescence of recent events, and their meaning, are assured. And of

the effects of a nuclear attack on Britain, was suppressed by the BBC for 20 years. During the same period more than 50 BBC and ITV programmes critical of the war in Ireland were banned, delayed or doctored. Events in Northern Ireland have long been "normalised."

As the influence of television has surpassed that of the press, perhaps in no other country in the world has broadcasting held such a privileged position as an opinion leader. Possessing highly professional talent, and the illusion of impartiality (a venerable illusion, with its lexicon of "ba-

death squad in Gibraltar.

As for the BBC, most of its voices of dissent have long fallen silent. Today BBC current affairs is seldom controversial as it is secured within a pyramid of "directorates" that have little to do with free journalism and are designed to control to shore up assumptions, not to challenge them. In any case, silence is no longer optional in the increasingly centralised, undemocratic state that is the other side of the media society. As the "market" has been "freed" from state controls (i.e. 19th century laissez-faire nostrums have been reimposed),

likened investigative journalism to an offence against the state; it has become just that. In the recent furor about protection of privacy, the real canker of state secrecy was ignored. When a Channel 4 documentary, The Committee, alleged a murderous state conspiracy in Northern Ireland, the Prevention of Terrorism Act was used to give all broadcasters a namistakeably clear warning.

Perhaps more than the law, manipulation of public opinion in the media society relies on an Orwellian abuse of conceptual thought, logic, and language. For example, although the unerring message is that there is only one way now, this is known as "choice." It booms out to all of humanity, growing louder and more insistent in the media echo chamber. Those who challenge this socialisation, and believe in real choice in public life and the media, are likely to be labelled as "outside the mainstream" or as "committed" people who "lack balance."

These attacks come not only from the new Murdoch zealots but also from the old liberal elite which sees itself as the fulcrum of society striking a "sensible balance" between opposing extremes. This is often translated into evenhandedness between oppressor and oppressed.

In Britain and the U.S. leading members of this liberal group can be relied upon to guard the conservative flame during difficult times, such as when established forces go to war, or feel themselves threatened by civil disturbance or a surfeit of political activity outside the Palace of Westminster. This is true of the "moderated" Labour Party, whose leadership has acted decisively to blunt any move towards mass resistance, saying in effect that society is static and people's consciousness cannot be raised.

In the wider imperial world the process of normalisation requires organised forgetting on a significant scale. We used to be reminded constantly of the illegal Soviet invasions of Eastern Europe. We are almost never reminded of the illegal U.S. invasions, such as the atrocious assault on Panama when thousands of civilians were killed on the pretext of arresting a drug-dealer, and, of course, American violence in Vietnam.

The truth about the potential violence of "other" Washington-imposed or assisted regimes is also of minimal interest. As the Guatemalan journalist Julio Godoy has pointed out, Europeans under the Soviet heel were "in a way luckier than Central Americans. While the Moscow-imposed government in Prague

would degrade and humiliate reformers, the Washington-made government in Guatemala would kill them. It still does and it has taken more than 150,000 victims."

In Britain there is a clutch of outstanding independent journalists who understand about "normalisation." In commercial television there is an equally fine group of broadcasters and directors: the products of a British documentary tradition which began with John Grierson, Norman Swallow and Denis Mitchell and which owes nothing to bogus "balance."

They were film-makers — film journalists — who presented people and places as they saw them, who illuminated those areas in society which had long remained in shadow. Today they would be called "campaigning."

Their heirs make programmes like those in the World In Action series, which up to eight million people watch every week, a greater audience than that enjoyed by a number of game shows and other "commercial" entertainment. Yet according to the director of programmes of the new Carlton Television, they "will not survive the new ITV... unless they earn their way."

They are part of a great constituency of public resistance which owes little to "mainstream" political forces and whose achievements are remarkable. The exposure of a deeply corrupt criminal justice system and a popular revolt against a totalitarian tax. Their future depends, now more than ever, on the strength of the backing they receive against reaction dressed up as modernisation, as realism and "choice" and whose incentives to destroy now permeate institutions from television to the health service in the false name of economic necessity.

The most courageous voices are in the Third World. Every year hundreds of journalists pay for their outspokenness with their health and even their lives. We hear little about them and even less about the wider resistance they represent, although the distant gunfire of their struggle is audible to those who wish to listen.

"Sometimes feel," Uruguayan poet Eduardo Galeano wrote, "as if they have stolen even our words. The term 'socialist' is applied in the West as the false face of injustice. The word 'imperialism' is no longer to be found in the dominant lexicon, even though imperialism is present. So now we must begin all over again. It is necessary to discover, create, imagine. And today, more than ever, it is necessary to dream, together..." The Guardian.



course official mendacity is trivialised, and the "communications revolution," Rupert Murdoch's accurate description of the new age is helped to create.

Under the old system the bias of the state operated through a "consensus" that was broadly acceptable to the established order. Controversial news and current affairs programmes could be kept off the air by applying arbitrary "guidelines" that were accompanied by ritualistic nods and winks. In this way, The War Game, a brilliant dramatisation

back "city," as well as occasionally dissenting programmes, "public service broadcasting" developed into a finely crafted instrument of state propaganda. Witness the BBC's coverage of the Falklands and the Gulf, and civil disturbances such as the 1984-85 miners' strike.

One wonders why Margaret Thatcher wanted to change it. Of course paternalism was not her way, neither was dissent in any effective form. Thus she never forgave Thames Television for showing Death On The Rock and exposing the activities of an SAS

so information has been subjected to draconian new controls. Britain in the 1990s is the only country in the world with a statutory bar on an elected member of Parliament addressing his constituents through the broadcast media. There are now more than 100 laws that make disclosure of information a crime. Under the "reformed" Secrets Act — "reformed" being officialspeak for even more restriction — all the major revelations of official lying and venality in the 1980s would now be illegal.

The Sunday Telegraph once

High time to address serious issues

By David S. Broder

THEY HAVE had some weeks now to work into their roles, and neither is entirely comfortable — or plausible.

Bill Clinton plays John F. Kennedy with a southern drawl, talking of "getting" the country "moving" again. George Bush, even more improbably, is playing Harry Truman, spurning the polls that say he can't win and giving the Congress hell.

However ill-fitting the costumes they have put on, however implausible the casting, the dress rehearsals and previews for the 1992 campaign are over. Labour Day weekend has now marked the real start of the general election race for the White House. On Sept. 22 Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton are scheduled to face each other in the first of the potentially decisive television debates. Less than two months from now, on Nov. 3, the voters will render their verdict.

What is at stake in this election of 1992? How ready are the candidates and the parties for the contest? What chance is there that the voters will find this campaign more nourishing than the past contests which have made them so jaded about politics?

Everything that has led up to this moment has been so surprising that even a battle-scarred pundit must quake at guessing the answers. All year long the chronicles of Campaign '92 have been one or two steps behind the curve. We misread Mario Cuomo, misjudged Pat Buchanan and Paul Tsongas, misled ourselves about Ross Perot and missed the staying power of both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton — their capacity to "take a licking and keep on ticking."

Odds are we'll be fooled again by the final stage of the contest. But, for a change, I find myself more hopeful than others that the campaign will be fought for large stakes, on large issues — and that the outcome will take at least a few inches off the peak of public

cynicism that has been building up in these past two decades.

There is, to be sure, a risk that the race will deteriorate into an exchange of attacks that will dismay voters and deny the country a serious discussion of its future. Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton have vulnerabilities that invite such tactics.

Mr. Bush ran that kind of campaign against the Michael Dukakis in 1988 — and won. Mr. Clinton ran that kind of campaign against Paul Tsongas in the southern "Super Tuesday" primaries — and won. They may be tempted to try their luck again.

But even the most hard-boiled operatives in the rival camps recognise in their conversations that the voters see this as a "high stakes" election. Going "down and dirty" may be riskier this year than in many other times.

The buildup in the importance of this election has been gradual. Four years ago we knew that the congressional side of this year's campaign would be exceptionally important. In 1992, for the first time in 20 years, the decennial reapportionment and redistricting of the House of Representatives would coincide with a presidential election. That alone guaranteed more volatility in the usually turgid House contests.

What we did not know was that scandals in the House bank and post office, the congressional pay raise, and three years of increasingly obvious partisan gridlock would turn incumbency from a blessing into a curse for many members.

Now, with 15 more primaries still to come, at least 82 members of the House have already been removed — by retirement, defeat or redistricting — and it is perfectly possible that one-third of the 435 members next January will be newcomers to Capitol Hill.

That will change Congress in ways we cannot begin to describe, whether or not party ratios change.

Should the party alignment

shift by 20 seats or more in either direction, which is perfectly possible, a radical readjustment would be in the offing. If the Democrats are the winners, they would have a veto-proof majority on many issues; should the GOP come out on top, it would restore the possibility of a conservative coalition on some issues.

Though overshadowed by the amazing spectacle of the House turnover, the Senate also faces a decisive year. The current Senate class has seen a substantial partisan shift each time it has faced the voters. In the Watergate election of 1974, the Democrats gained four seats and set the stage for a presidential victory two years later.

In 1980, massive public disillusionment gave Republicans a 12-seat gain and a majority for the first time in 26 years. In 1986, the pendulum swung again, yielding a net gain of eight Democratic seats and restoration of Democratic control. Now the veterans of 1974 (four of them), 1980 (eight of them) and 1986 (10 of them) are running again. And once again, whichever party wins this battle will likely have won the war, i.e., assured itself control for another six years at least.

The presidential race, sitting atop this bubbling cauldron of partisan battle, has taken on unusual significance in itself. Three years ago, two years ago and even a year ago, Mr. Bush looked a safe bet for reelection — so safe that many "first-team" Democrats, decided to sit out 1992. But in the wake of a recession, a tardy and weak recovery and earthquakes, riots and hurricanes a dispiriting sense of public disillusionment took hold. Recently, more than three-quarters of the electorate expressed the view that the country was headed in the wrong direction.

The public mood swing set the stage for a classic "time for a change" campaign, and Bill Clinton, 45, was ready to provide it. Fourteen years after he became the "boy governor" of Arkansas,

eight years after he joined in forming the Democratic Leadership Council to fight the old interest-group liberalism that dominated the Democratic establishment, Mr. Clinton brought the message of "change" to the party and nation. When he picked another baby-boomer, Sen. Albert Gore, Jr., of Tennessee, as his running-mate, the battle with Mr. Bush became not just a struggle of parties and philosophies but of generations.

At a deeper level, historical forces also seemed to signal a time for remodeled leadership and redirected energies. For almost five decades, under president and Congresses of both parties, the United States had led an international alliance to contain expansionist communism.

During George Bush's first term, the cold war ended in triumph. Mr. Bush, who had spent much of his governmental career in key cold war battleposts, clearly was struggling to re gear his energies and redirect his focus to the domestic challenges that now cried out for action. And here came the Democrats, with the most youthful ticket in this century, ready to end 40 years of White House occupancy by men who wore the country's uniform during World War II and the start of the cold war.

I don't know who will win this presidential race. And that's a good feeling in itself after so many Labour Days when the verdict seemed foreordained and the campaign a mere charade. But I would bet it will be the candidate who talks most seriously and convincingly about how to deal with the economic, educational and health needs of the nation — and shows enough candor and guts to act on what he says.

The voters clearly understand this is an important election for the country. And they're going to try to make these candidates measure up — The Washington Post.

LETTERS

Why socialism?

To the Editor:

I AM glad that Khaled Al Asmar responded to my letter. My reply to his letter comes later as I was enjoying the fruits of hard work under a free enterprise system by spending a vacation in Tunisia.

Like many citizens in Jordan, I am the child of refugee parents. We worked our way through universities, went to the Gulf states to find employment, believing in the motto that by improving oneself financially one can improve the lives of others around him.

In the world of economics, one should remember that income equals consumption plus savings. Savings will be invested if people are provided with the right economic environment. As this investment materialises and succeeds, it generates new income which is reflected in an increase in national income, generating in turn more savings, more investment, more income and so on... People willing to take risk in investment are a rare breed. They are leaders, highly motivated and should be rewarded for their efforts. A free enterprise system provides both opportunities and rewards. On the other hand, when income distribution is low, as in the case of socialism, savings do not — indeed cannot — materialise. As a result, investment does not materialise without deficit financing and ensuing inflation as in the case of Brazil. Furthermore, the small savings realised that could be invested, not finding the right economic environment, generally find their way abroad, as in the case of Egypt under Nasser. That socialism as a system is bankrupt is demonstrated by the collapse of the Soviet Union. If Mr. Al Asmar still has not realised this, I wonder if he ever will.

It is admirable for a nation to be humane and socially conscious, but the nation must be able to afford it. It is suicide to commit national wealth to guaranteeing jobs, thus enlarging the deficit in the national budget; to provide unlimited low cost housing, locking the nation's wealth in mortar and stone. Socialism is government ownership, and who benefits from government ownership? Are we not talking about a certain class of public administrators who benefit from their appointment to the managerial positions of a state-owned enterprise simply because of their government position? Or government employees nominated to managerial positions for which they lack the necessary skills? And overstaffing of government companies with relatives and special appointees?

Nasser bears much of the responsibility for destroying the business class in the Arab World who worked hard to improve their society. With Nasser's socialism, Egyptian, Syrian and Iraqi businessmen were driven abroad. Enormous investment and many generations were needed to build this class of people. Are not they, like you and me, citizens of these countries and children of the world? What is the difference between Israel taking our land and expropriation of land under socialism?

I admire and respect Mr. Al Asmar's sense of commitment and in particular his commitment to human rights. I sincerely hope he directs this commitment towards working to free our women from their present house arrest. I urge our government to champion this cause and to educate our people in their basic human rights. Maybe we can free fifty per cent of our population.

Wafiq Dajani,
Amman.

China tops standings at World Junior Athletics Championships

SEOUL (Agencies) — Briton Stephen Smith stole the limelight on the final day of the World Junior Athletics Championships with a record-equaling triumph in the men's high jump Sunday.

Smith, 19, cleared 2.37 metres to tie the record set by Dragutin Topić of Yugoslavia in 1990. It was the closest any world records came to falling at the five-day championships.

Favourite Tim Forsyth of Australia, bronze medalist at the Barcelona Olympics, was second with 2.31.

China finished top of the medal table with eight gold, three silver and three bronze.

The United States held off a strong challenge from Nigeria to win the men's 4x400 metres relay in three minutes 06.11 seconds, finishing second in the medals table with 4-3-2. The CIS were third with 4-2-5.

Britain took their second gold of the championships in the men's 4x100 metres relay, winning in 39.21 seconds, 0.38 of a second faster than the Americans.

Ats Boldon of Trinidad and Tobago, the winner of the men's 100-metre dash took the 200-metre race, while Ha Ling of

China won the women's 200-metre dash in 23.14 seconds.

Boldon, the only competitor from Trinidad and Tobago, was clocked at 20.63 seconds for the gold, behind his career best of 20.40. The world junior men's 200-metre record is 20.13.

Boldon led from start to finish, beating Britain's Darren Campbell by 0.24 seconds. After the victory, he blew kisses to the applauding spectators.

"I never expected to win, but I always hoped to," Boldon said. "I am pleased with my time. I was having trouble with my left leg and a lot of good work went into it by people who massaged it," he said.

Boldon, 19, a student at San Jose City College in San Jose, California, said his immediate objective is to win the American College Championship and then place in the top three at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

Matthaeus was down and out in Milan

BONN (R) — Nobody need tell Lothar Matthaeus that there is a very thin line between glory and disaster in soccer. He has learned all about it in the past two years.

In 1990, the German experienced the biggest moment of his career when he lifted the World Cup trophy for his country amongst deafening celebrations in Rome's Olympic Stadium.

Last June, while the Germans were preparing to contest the finals of the European Championship, the diminutive midfielder lay on a treatment bench struggling to recover from a knee injury that threatened to end his career in his early 30s.

The contrasting experiences have left their mark on Matthaeus as he prepares to return to action, after a five-month layoff, for his new club Bayern Munich in the Bundesliga following his move from Internazionale Milan.

The 31-year-old German captain paints a dark picture of being down and out in the Italian First Division, the richest and most glamorous league in the world.

Matthaeus was a hero in Milan when he inspired Inter to the 1989 Italian title and the 1991 UEFA Cup. But his experience of being discarded because he was injured forced him to quit the country and return home.

"The injury opened my eyes about Italian football. When a player is injured or no longer can produce the right form, he is thrown away," Matthaeus said.

"I don't have a bad conscience (about the way I left Inter). The club did nothing at all for me for four months ... then I realised that as far as Inter were concerned, I was just rubbish."

After four years at Bayern when he guided them to three consecutive German League titles, Matthaeus left Bavaria in 1988 for a lucrative contract with Inter.

After guiding the Milan club to the League title in his first season, he produced some brilliant performances in the 1990 World Cup, many of them in his adopted northern Italian city.

But when Matthaeus underwent knee surgery last season many began to doubt whether he would be able to return to his best and lead the national team again.

It is great credit to Matthaeus's inborn determination that he has been able to recover so quickly. "Many said that a 30-year-old is finished when he gets a serious injury like that. But I knew I was still ambitious and said to myself that I should do everything to get back to the performances that everybody remembers me for," he said.

His return to fitness is good news for German national team coach Berti Vogts as he prepares a team to defend the World Cup in the United States in 1994.

Despite reaching the final at the European Championship, Germany missed Matthaeus's inspiration in midfield. Vogts never really found a successful replacement despite his experiments with Matthias Sammer, Andy Moeller and Stefan Effenberg.

Matthaeus is only 10 caps away from his country. It was Beckenbauer's record of 103 appearances for his country. It was Beckenbauer's role as vice president at Bayern that helped



Lothar Matthaeus

to lure Matthaeus back to Munich. "Munich has also been my love. I never lost contact with Franz Beckenbauer, (business manager) Uli Hoeneß and some of the players," he said. "Of course, I won't score three goals in my first match. But the old Bayern will soon return."

After a disastrous last season when they could finish only 10th, Bayern will be looking to Matthaeus to help them continue their superb start to the season. Bayern top the League with 10 points from five games.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Magic stars at charity game

INGLEWOOD, California — Magic Johnson's 3-point shooting sparked the blue team to a 147-132 victory Saturday night in its annual Midsummer's Night Magic All-Star charity game. Johnson opened the second half with three consecutive 3-pointers and had six in the half as the blue team rallied from a 71-64 halftime deficit. He finished with 32 points and 13 assists. The blue team took charge in the middle of the third quarter with a 15-2 run to take a 93-86 lead. But the former Los Angeles Lakers star and Olympic gold medalist provided few hints about whether he would come out of retirement and return to the NBA this season. He retired from the Lakers last November after announcing he has the virus that causes AIDS. He promised to announce a decision on his status before the start of NBA training camps. "The last time I was asked that question, if I were a betting man I'd say I'd come back," he said. "It's hard to say anything different, but I don't want anyone to bet and then lose their money." The game at the Forum was played to raise money for the United Negro College Fund.

Maradona transfer to be agreed at FIFA

ZURICH (R) — Napoli and Sevilla have agreed to meet at FIFA headquarters Monday in a final attempt to resolve the Diego Maradona transfer saga. "I would like to emphasize that we are offering our offices as a neutral site to bring the two parties together towards settling this transfer dispute on an amicable basis," said FIFA spokesman Guido Tognoni. If talks remain stalled FIFA's Players' Status Committee would make a ruling, Tognoni added. Maradona, who has served a 15-month drug suspension, remains technically under contract to Napoli until June 1993 but refuses to return to Italy. Sevilla have offered Napoli \$4.5 million for the player. Napoli president Corrado Ferlaino wants \$15 million according to Italian newspapers. Maradona, frustrated by the non-settlement, threatened to quit soccer and return to Argentina from Spain Saturday. Now he has agreed to wait until Monday.

Brain-damaged boxer making progress

LONDON (R) — British boxer Michael Watson, who suffered brain damage in a World Title fight a year ago, was said Friday to have made "considerable strides." Watson has been in hospital since the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) super-middleweight title fight last September when he was stopped in the last round by compatriot Chris Eubank. Watson was given little hope, but surgeon Peter Hamlyn said he had made considerable strides since surgery three months ago to remove drainage tubes and repair skull damage. "His speech has improved from single words to well-formed sentences and movement and power in his limbs have also increased," said Hamlyn. Watson's visitors have included Muhammad Ali and Eubank.

Spassky, Fischer draw in 10th game

SVETI STEFAN, Yugoslavia, (R) — Former world chess champions Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer battled for more than seven hours Saturday in the 10th game of their \$5 million rematch series before settling for a draw. Spassky, playing white and showing little sign of his recent illness, fought off a determined attack in a lengthy endgame during which Fischer repeatedly checked him but failed to trap his king for mate. "I had some chances," said Fischer afterwards. "He defended very well. I think, overall," Fischer leads 4-2 in the series, which will give \$3.5 million to the first player to 10 points. Draws, of which this was the fourth do not count towards the total.

Irish St Leger favourite wins

DUBLIN (R) — Steve Cusack made 11-4 favourite Mashaallah to a close win in the Irish St Leger at the Curragh Saturday. The colt completed a hat-trick of group one wins after a memorable finish against 1990 English St Leger winner Smurgle and this season's Ascot Gold Cup hero Drum Trap. Mashaallah was sent to the front by Cusack turning for home, with surges in hot pursuit and Drum Trap emerging from the pack in company with Rock Hopper. "Mashaallah won group one races in the soft in Italy and Germany, but it is particularly satisfying to see him take a classic. He is a progressive colt who might take his chance in the Arc if the ground came really soft in Paris," said Trainer John Gosden.

Nantes takes second spot

PARIS (R) — Chad's Jafet N'doram scored a hat-trick for Nantes Saturday as the underdog team from Brittany joined Paris St Germain at the top of the French first division. Nantes's 3-2 victory over Lens put them level on 12 points with Paris, who played out an uninspiring goalless draw in Montpellier. Paris lead the table on goal difference. Lens's goals came from a controversial penalty, converted by Bulgarian Nasko Sirakov in the 71st minute, and Nantes' Croatian playmaker who put through his own net four minutes from time. Another Croatian, Allen Boksic, helped Marseille to preserve their unbeaten record with a 1-1 home draw against Le Havre.

Nigel Mansell joins Newman-Haas team

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Nigel Mansell's switch to IndyCar racing means that he will end his Formula One career at the Adelaide Grand Prix in November and make his Indy debut several thousand miles north on Australia's Gold Coast four months later.

Britain's Mansell will line up in a Lola Ford Cosworth for the Newman-Haas team on the Surfers Paradise Street Circuit on March 21, a spokesman for his team confirmed Saturday.

The 39-year-old driver joins 1978 Formula One and four-time Indy Series winner Mario Andretti on the high-profile IndyCar team headed by actor Paul Newman and Carl Haas. Mansell, the 1992 Formula One champion with eight race victories this year, announced his decision to sign with the team in Chicago Friday. It follows his split with the Formula One Williams-Renault team.

Organisers of the Gold Coast Indy expect Mansell's appearance will result in a big attendance increase as well as added interest from corporate sponsors.

"This is the biggest break we've ever had," event general manager Bob Minnikin said Saturday. "It will vastly raise our international profile."

"Mansell is at the peak of his career and it speaks volumes for the standing of IndyCar racing among the world's top drivers that he has chosen to come across now."

2 hurt in Australian Rally

PERTH (R) — Two navigators were injured, one seriously, in crashes during the same stage of the Australian Rally Sunday.

Tony Sirocombe, navigating for fellow New Zealander Rod Millen, was taken to hospital in a helicopter with three broken ribs and lung damage after their Mazda 232 rolled and slammed into trees during the 11th stage through a pine forest. Millen was unhurt.

Rally Australia official Garry Connelly said Sirocombe was flown to nearby Pinjarra Hospital before being transferred to Perth 100 kms away.

Argentine Victor Zucchini navigating for Carlos Menem Jr, the son of Argentina's president, was treated for minor neck injuries after another accident on the 11th stage.

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris

"I was not snoring! Women don't snore! Women purr!"

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

PIERG
VUREC
SEXOPE
BLAVER

WHAT A PERSON MIGHT GO INTO, UNLESS HE LEARNS TO SHIFT FOR HIMSELF.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumbles ABATE CHAFE FORGOT INFANT
Answer: He marched to a "different drummer" which is why they called him this—OFF "BEAT!"

THE Daily Crossword by Harry Bryan

ACROSS
1 Wood strip
5 Picket fence
9 Move furiously
14 Inter
15 Consequently
16 Heart artery
17 Gardener, at times
18 Abrude
19 Spoke vehemently
20 Helen the singer
22 Forest fire
24 Interlarded
25 "Misericordia"
27 "Lawrence of Arabia" actor
30 Earth
32 Priestly garment
35 Rescind
36 Govt. org.
37 Indian
38 Football fields
39 Girth — try
40 Small bottle
41 Miller and Jellin
42 Phooey!
43 Make a clean — of

DOWN
1 Former comic
2 Lily plant
3 Cow
4 Certain trees
5 Use a needle
6 Paper or rubber
7 Contradictory, in a way

8 Brought into life
9 Business group
10 Laughs heartily
11 Sea eagle
12 Major firm
13 Entry ticket
21 Egg parts
22 Nosed essayist
25 Triumphant
27 Musical
28 Instrument
29 Certain alloy
30 Sheepskin
31 Eggs
32 Melodies
33 Rent document
34 Hits hard
37 — resting on —

51 Sit — (be an observer)
52 Fessure
53 Hun

54 Corner
56 A Hayworth
57 Flanders river
60 Printing spacers

Dr. Awni Ktami
Internist & Infectious Diseases (U.K.)
Consultant Physician at K.H.M.C./
Formerly
M.B, B.Ch, Med. Board
M.Sc, DTM & H "R.C.P. London"
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GOREN BRIDGE
WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
BEWARE OF SET-UPS
Both vulnerable. West deals.
NORTH
♠ J 10 9 8 3
♥ Q 5
♦ 10 6 5
♣ A 8 7
WEST
♠ 5 2
♥ 10 9 7 6 3
♦ 7 3
♣ K 9 6 5
EAST
♠ A 7 6 4
♥ A 2
♦ J 8 4
♣ Q J 4 2
SOUTH
♠ K Q
♥ K J 6 4
♦ A K Q 8 2
♣ 10 3
The bidding:
West North East South
Pass Pass 1 NT Dbl
2 ♣ 2 ♣ Pass 3 NT
Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ten of ♠
It's human nature to develop tricks when you have the chance. However, it's not always the correct thing to do, as this hand from a major Indian team championship demonstrates.
East-West were using a 12-14 point range for their one-no-trump opening bids. Since North rated to have some values for the free bid of

Peanuts

PARDON ME... DO YOU KNOW WHERE THE COURTHOUSE IS?

HOW SHOULD I KNOW? I'M JUST A LITTLE KID! I DON'T KNOW WHERE ANYTHING IS!

WHY ASK ME? WHAT DO I KNOW? IF IT ISN'T ONE THING, IT'S ANOTHER!

WELL, THANK YOU ANYWAY. HEY, NO PROBLEM.

Andy Capp

HE WAS TOO IMMATURE. WHAT I REALLY GO FOR IN A GLOVE IS SOPHISTICATION.

MY NAME IS CAPP. ANDY CAPP.

SOPHISTICATION WITH THAT UMBRELLA? MEANS BEING TOO PLASTERED TO BE EMBARRASSED.

Mutt'n'Jeff

HELLO, GUS! HAVE YOU THAT UMBRELLA YOU BORROWED FROM ME SUNDAY?

OH, SURE MUTT!

HEY, POP! WHERE'S THAT UMBRELLA YOU BORROWED FROM ME MONDAY?

COUNSIN JOE BORROWED IT TUESDAY. DID YOU WANT IT?

YEH! MUTT HERE WANTS IT!

OH, I DON'T WANT IT! I BORROWED IT FROM JEFF HERE! HE WANTS IT!

WELL, NOT FOR MYSELF! BUT THIS FELLOW I BORROWED IT FROM SAYS THE OWNER WANTS IT!

Financial Markets

Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 14-September 18, 1992)

AMMAN — Panic swept the Foreign Exchange Market last week, as confidence in most European currencies eroded. Panic stricken traders dumped sterling and Italian lira, in particular, following a series of previously unexplained European announcements. The British pound, leading a number of other European currencies, tumbled by 10 per cent in one day, leading to the suspension of the pound and Italian lira from the EMS and a six per cent devaluation of the Spanish peseta. By the end of the week, the dollar was 3.5 per cent higher against the mark. Sterling, on the other hand, was 10 per cent lower against the dollar and 6.4 per cent lower against the mark. The yen appreciated in line with the dollar against European currencies, as it ended the week hardly changed against the U.S. currency.

The European Community (EC) surprised the market Monday by an announcement that the Bundesbank will cut interest rates, and that the Italian lira would be devalued by seven per cent within the ERM. The German discount rate was hence cut by 0.25 per cent to 8.25 per cent and the Lombard rate by 0.25 per cent to 9.5 per cent. The dollar jumped by more than three percent, while the pound dropped by almost three U.S. cents as a result.

The dollar continued to appreciate against European currencies Tuesday, and against sterling in particular. Although the German interest rate cut was very much welcomed, the decision to devalue the lira set off speculation that the British currency would soon follow. Market focus therefore remained unequivocally centered on the ERM. Expectations were divided between whether the pound would be devalued or whether the Bank of England would opt for an interest rate hike to defend its depreciating currency.

Market tensions surrounding the pound came to a head Wednesday, particularly after the pound had failed to convincingly break through resistance at 2.50 marks after the German rate cut. The pound went on an accelerated down track, and sold-bid buying because the ultimate concern among market participants, who sought the dollar, followed by the mark and the Swiss franc.

The Bank of England intervened buying sterling in several rounds, lifted the base rate first by two per cent to 12 per cent and then by another three per cent to 15 per cent, but to no avail. When all such measures failed to deter the pound's fall, the Bank of England announced, following an emergency meeting in Brussels, that the British and Italian units were temporarily suspended from the ERM. The move was practically an official devaluation of both currencies, since it entailed that they can float freely according to whatever price market forces set, below the ERM imposed bands. In retrospect, the Bank of England later announced that the interest rate was to remain at 12 per cent instead of 15 per cent. In the meantime, the Riksbank, Sweden's central bank, temporarily lifted its marginal lending rate to 500 per cent to stall any speculation against the krona. The dollar thus closed at 1.5104 marks, whereas the pound closed at 1.855 dollars, compared to 1.8616 dollars the previous day and 1.9210 the previous week. Against the mark, the pound closed at 2.6997 marks, well below its ERM floor of 2.7730 marks.

In the context of the chaotic state of the market, the Bank of England's interest rate cut back to 10 per cent. Thursday, ironically helped to ease some of the pressures against the pound. The British unit thus rebounded marginally, while the dollar retreated to its lowest level of the week against the mark at 1.4755 marks. Trading turned mellow and wary, compared to previous days when no sterling buyers could be found at all.

But the British unit dropped again Friday, closing at its lowest level of the week at 1.4730 dollars and 2.6085 marks, compared with its ERM lower band of 2.7730 marks. Claims and counter-claims between British and German officials further undermined the pound. The British claimed that German monetary policy was behind the panic selling of the pound, while the German refused to acknowledge such accusations, blaming it instead on domestic British policies.

As for this week, much depends on the results the French vote Sunday. A "yes" vote could set Mitterrand back on track, and bring an end to last week's chaos, while a "no" vote might prompt the Bundesbank to institute another German rate cut to temper the market's appetite for marks. The dollar, on the other hand, will benefit the most in case of a "no" vote, according to most observers.

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	11/9/92	18/9/92	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.9210	1.7350	(9.66)%
Deutsche Mark	1.4506	1.5035	(3.51)%
Swiss Franc	1.2905	1.3075	(1.30)%
French Franc	4.9235	5.1450	(4.31)%
Japanese Yen	124.30	124.51	(0.17)%

* USD Per STG

Source: Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	11/9/92	18/9/92	1-Month (%)	3-Month (%)	1-Year (%)
U.S. Dollar	3.06	3.31	3.12	3.12	3.31
Sterling Pound	10.18	10.62	10.38	10.38	10.40
Deutsche Mark	9.62	9.43	8.60	8.60	8.40
Swiss Franc	7.66	7.56	6.81	6.81	6.87
French Franc	10.18	10.27	10.50	10.50	9.50
Japanese Yen	4.31	3.65	4.31	4.31	3.75

Source: Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Mid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	.679	.681
Sterling Pound	1.1763	1.1822
Deutsche Mark	.4511	.4534
Swiss Franc	.5188	.5214
French Franc	.1320	.1327
Japanese Yen*	.5448	.5475
Italian Lira*	.0557	.0540
Belgian Franc	.02188	.02199

* Per 100

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	TRADING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
JORDAN KOWALY BANK	38,760	2.350	2.350	2.300
THE HOUSING BANK	15,415	2.400	2.400	2.370
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	27,325	2.450	2.500	2.530
ARAB NATIONAL BANK	188,678	2.550	2.600	2.700
ARAB BANK FOR INVESTMENT/OLD	125,982	1.250	1.250	1.250
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	715,507	2.080	2.100	2.140
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	8,201	2.270	2.320	2.300
WEST JORDAN INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	24,422	4.750	4.720	4.700
BANK OF JORDAN	246	14.750	14.500	14.500
ARAB BANK	2,290	114.750	114.500	114.500
GENERAL ARABIA INSURANCE	588	2.350	2.350	2.350
INSURANCE COMPANY	203,500	2.800	2.750	2.750
JORDAN FIRE INSURANCE	77,740	2.920	2.950	2.920
JORDANIAN MARINE INSURANCE	9,024	1.790	1.800	1.800
JORDANIAN MARINE INSURANCE	1,284	1.970	1.970	1.970
ARAB INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE	27,420	6.025	6.250	6.060
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	182,040	1.350	1.340	1.215
UNITED KIDDA EAST & CONDOMINES HOTELS	216,220	2.450	2.670	2.570
JORDANIAN MARINE INSURANCE	8,761	0.350	0.370	0.370
INSURANCE COMPANY	145,253	1.090	1.110	1.130
PETRA ENTERPRISES & EQUIPMENTS LEASING	131,935	1.270	1.330	1.270
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	121,309	0.850	0.850	0.840
JORDAN PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	7,290	1.470	1.470	1.440
JORDAN RALPH	1,375	2.400	2.450	2.550
ARAB ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES	7,658	7.150	7.650	7.650
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	11,215	8.850	8.850	8.840
THE JORDANIAN COMMERCIAL & MANUFACTURING	9,761	8.850	8.800	8.800
ARAB CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	1,078	21.500	21.500	21.500
NATIONAL SWIRE, INDUSTRY*	60,182	5.770	5.790	5.750
ARAB AL DARA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	13,628	8.580	8.580	8.430
INTERNATIONAL PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	26,182	2.580	2.580	2.550
THE JORDAN WORKERS WELFARE	5,515	9.800	10.000	10.000
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	17,427	5.770	5.660	5.700
JORDANIAN MARINE INSURANCE	9,470	0.740	0.740	0.730
THE JORDANIAN PAPER MANUFACTURING	25,092	3.990	3.910	3.950
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	253,328	2.350	2.350	2.350
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	22,313	6.780	6.800	6.770
JORDAN CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	7,673	4.740	4.740	4.740
UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	16,045	12.550	12.550	12.500
ALDIN INDUSTRIES	709	3.500	3.500	3.500
WAFIA INDUSTRIES	1,688	3.350	3.370	3.270
WAFIA INDUSTRIES	192	1.540	1.540	1.530
UNIVERSAL JORDAN INDUSTRIES	26,779	4.830	4.820	4.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	325,258	2.640	2.700	2.600
JORDAN PETROLEUM SERVICES	8,225	8.400	8.400	8.400

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Third World complains currency turmoil, high interest hurting poor

WASHINGTON (AP) — Third World governments complained Saturday that turmoil on world markets and high European interest rates are slowing their growth and even preventing them from telling how much they are growing.

"It's affecting the evaluation of our assets, our earnings and our terms of trade," Syria's Economy Minister Mohammad Imady told reporters.

He added that it also affects the budgets of wealthier countries and the availability of aid.

"For the heavily indebted countries it hurts, especially in the areas of high interest," said

Nigerian Finance Minister Ahmadu Abu Bakar.

Mr. Abu Bakar chaired a Group of 24 Third World countries at the joint meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). They represent more than 100 other countries in what the bank calls low-income and medium-income groups, which are also attending.

"The turmoil in international financial markets and the very high interest rates prevailing in Europe not only impede the recovery of those economies, but also hinder growth and add to the uncertainties prevailing in the international economy," they said in a joint statement.

Many of these countries depend on production of raw materials to earn the money they need to buy industrial goods from the United States, western Europe and other wealthier areas.

Lawrence Summers, the bank's chief economist, estimated at a news conference that the prices they get for raw materials — not counting oil — has declined steadily for three years. Prices of coffee, tea and cocoa, which are major items in several African and Latin American countries, have been cut in half.

The joint statement said the

governments were worried by the slow and uneven recovery of world output, the weak growth of trade and the big deficits in the budgets of industrial countries. Though they named no country, they obviously had in mind the \$330 billion deficit faced by the United States this year.

Noting the help going to Russia and other countries in eastern Europe, they said it should be in addition to — not at the expense of — aid given to them. They called for substantial cancellation of their debts, new loans, and the issue of new money by the IMF — a substantial part of it to them.

Top finance officials pledge close cooperation in world currency markets

WASHINGTON (AP) — Top finance officials of the seven largest industrial countries pledged Saturday to cooperate closely in world currency markets in an effort to resolve the worst currency crisis in two decades.

In a joint statement, finance officials of the seven countries — the United States, Japan, Germany, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — expressed concerns about the recent turmoil that has battered the British pound and other European currencies.

In an effort to restore order,

the finance officials said they "will take appropriate additional actions as needed to achieve sustained growth and greater currency stability."

The three-paragraph statement did not specify just what actions the countries would take. But in past periods of instability, the United States has joined with its major economic allies to buy massive amounts of weak currencies on the open market to prop up their price.

Canadian Finance Minister

Donald Mazankowski told reporters following the 7 1/2-hour closed door meeting that the joint statement proved that the effort to coordinate economic policies among the major countries was alive and well.

"We are taking the steps necessary to continue cooperation," Mr. Mazankowski said.

The brief statement contained no hint that Germany had renege from its stance that, for now, it had lowered its interest rates as much as possible.

argued that German interest rates must come down further to relieve pressure on weak European countries and boost worldwide growth.

The real test of the Group of Seven's newly stated resolve toward cooperation will likely come Monday when financial markets open for business.

Investors are braced for further market turmoil, especially if French voters reject a treaty calling for closer political and economic cooperation in Europe.

Italian unions cry foul over austerity package

ROME (R) — Italian unions Saturday pledged to mount a campaign of strikes and demonstrations in protest at austerity measures unveiled last week by Prime Minister Giuliano Amato in his 1993 budget.

"It's just legalized theft," said one labor group of the planned cuts in pensions, wages and health spending.

National stoppages and mass demonstrations are due over the next month, with Italy's rail and air network expected to be especially hard hit.

The country has also dimmed prospects for union acceptance of a vital accord struck in July which aims to reduce inflation by cutting the automatic link between wages and prices.

Abolition of the so-called "scala mobile" wage indexation, along with the spending cuts, forms the basis of Mr. Amato's plan to bring Italy's economy in line with its EC partners and reduce pressure on the sagging lira.

But last week's seven per cent lira devaluation, which many unions fear will push the cost of living higher, and the severity of next year's budget plan have prompted angry calls for the accord to be scrapped.

"If I'd known then what I know now, I would never have signed it," said Bruno Trentin, leader of Italy's biggest labor group the CGIL.

Mr. Trentin briefly quit after being accused of betraying the workers by signing the accord

with government and employers but has since withdrawn his resignation.

Mr. Amato is due to meet labor leader Monday and will urge them of the need to stick to the agreement and accept his belt-tightening measures in the national interest.

But his pleas will not stop a growing number of industrial actions being planned by both established and militant union groups, backed by left-wing political parties.

Along with protests in industrial cities starting this week, Mr. Trentin has threatened to call national strikes if needed.

Militant unionists in sectors ranging from transport, defence and the judiciary have already said they would hold a general strike in the coming weeks.

They are members of the so-called COBAS unions, militant offshoots of Italy's three traditional union umbrella groups which are responsible for most of the wildest action which plagues Italy's public services, particularly transport.

Settlers likely to join the COBAS action include teachers, car workers, court employees, private health workers, civil servants and rail and airline workers.

COBAS leaders have already promised Mr. Amato a "long hot autumn" in return for an earlier package of spending cuts planned for this year.

The 1993 budget plan aims to stem the runaway growth of Italy's 150 trillion lire (\$130 billion) budget deficit by saving 93 trillion lire (\$85 billion).

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Sarajevo parliament aflame; U.N. council ousts Yugoslavia

SARAJEVO (AP) — Sarajevo's parliament building was aflame after an artillery barrage late Saturday, while the city's defenders said they were bracing for an infantry attack after a day of shelling.

The intense fighting came as all three of Bosnia's warring factions, meeting in Geneva, agreed to measures aimed at protecting relief convoys and flights into Sarajevo's embattled airport.

But it was not clear when flights, suspended since the downing of an Italian cargo plane on Sept. 3, would resume.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council voted Saturday to virtually oust Yugoslavia from the United Nations for its role in Bosnia's civil war. The decision of the 15-member Council is subject to ratification by the General Assembly, which re-convenes Monday.

Yugoslavia could re-apply for full membership, but many countries would not go along until Belgrade makes peace with Bosnia-Herzegovina and other former Yugoslav republics.

In a first reaction, Yugoslav Premier Milan Panic described as "unfortunate" the Security Council vote and said his country would strive to remain a member of the world body.

"My first reaction is one of sadness at this unprecedented act," Mr. Panic told the Associated Press by telephone when

informed of the vote.

The parliament building near the Holiday Inn Hotel in downtown Sarajevo came under an incessant artillery barrage as night fell Saturday.

Half of the building already had been burned out from previous attacks. The latest barrage appeared to come from Serb hillside positions.

Flames shot out of windows of the parliament building from the 10th floor and higher. Tracers smashed into the structure, instantly followed by cannon shells, tearing off chunks of the building and hurling them as far as 200 metres.

The Holiday Inn, where most foreign journalists are staying, was rocked by two hits. There were no reports of injuries.

Earlier, Bosnian government troops said they were clinging to their positions in Stup, a Sarajevo suburb, and at Zuc to the north of the war-ravaged capital.

A local commander also reported that Muslim-led government forces had captured a wider area around the eastern city of Gorazde, which Serbs abandoned two weeks ago.

Thirty-nine people were killed Saturday in air raids around the northern Bosnian town of Brcko, Sarajevo Radio reported. It said Serb warplanes attacked twice in the morning.

The heavy fighting was viewed as an effort to strengthen bargain-

ing positions at peace talks under way in Geneva.

In the past two days, the Serbs have been following up artillery barrages on Zuc and Stup with infantry drives supported by tanks and armoured vehicles, said Dervo Harbinje, deputy commander of the Sarajevo district.

In Mostar, capital of western Herzegovina, German journalist Georg Pfahl was killed Saturday during a Serb heavy artillery attack on the town, Croatian Television reported.

TV showed footage of his blood-stained body carried on a stretcher to an ambulance, but added medical aid could not save his life. Details of Mr. Pfahl's affiliation and hometown were not immediately available.

If Serbs capture the centre of Stup, they will isolate a pocket of government defenders to the southwest and dominate the road to the airport.

The Bosnian government said Saturday that 53 people were killed and 295 wounded across Bosnia during the last 24 hours. The casualty figure included 21 dead and 170 wounded in Sarajevo.

Sarajevo Radio quoted the chairman of the Gorazde Commune War Presidency, Hadzi Efendic, as saying: "We can now... impart the joyous news to you that Gorazde and its commune (surrounding area) are

free."

Mr. Efendic said a Serb offensive had been crushed and the Serb "hordes" pushed across the Drina River from Gorazde, located some 50 kilometres (32 miles) southeast of Sarajevo, toward the Montenegro border, about 38 kilometres (15 miles) east.

But government forces said that 40 Serb tanks were moving toward Gorazde from Pijevlja in Montenegro, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) away.

In Geneva, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Saturday recommended the immediate resumption of the international airlift to the Bosnian capital after a 16-day suspension.

Mrs. Sadako Ogata said she wanted replies by Monday on whether governments were ready to send cargo planes to rejoin the relief effort.

Muslims and Croats voted on Feb. 29 for independence from Yugoslavia. In protest, Serb forces, backed by Serbia and the Serb-led Yugoslav military, proclaimed their own self-rule.

Since the fighting began in April, at least 10,000 people have been killed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Serb forces have captured two-thirds of the republic and are blamed for most — but not all — of the so-called ethnic cleansing, in which people are driven from their homes or killed because of their ethnic background.

U.N. chief fears world could break up into mini-states

UNITED NATIONS (R) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali feels the world could splinter into 400 economically-crippled mini-states unless the rights of minorities move to the top of the international agenda.

In an interview with Reuters as the 47th session of the General Assembly got under way, the secretary-general feared the break-up of Yugoslavia might set an awesome example for the 21st century.

"The new danger which will appear in the world in the next 10 years is more fragmentation," he said.

"Rather than 100 or 200 countries, you may have at the end of the century 400 countries," he said. "And we will not be able to do any kind of economic development, not to mention more disputes on boundaries."

One solution was to find ways to protect minorities by "offering (the strongest) machinery possible to defend human rights," including further action by the Security Council.

As North American and Western European states were attempting to break down frontiers, he said, Eastern Europe and other areas appeared to be going the

another direction. The end of the cold war opened a Pandora's box of causes and conflicts that had been kept down by the ideological struggle.

A hypothetical example of a worst-case scenario, he said, would be in Africa, already split into 50 countries.

"There are 5,000 tribes. Suppose each tribe would say it has the right to self-determination, you will have a kind of new micro-nationalism with small states of 50,000 or 100,000 people."

"So what is the way to stop this? He asked. "To defend human rights, to give guarantees that would make people feel secure before conflict breaks out or demands for secession multiply."

Turning to Yugoslavia, the 69-year-old U.N. chief estimated it would take at least two years to find a solution to the problems generated by the dissolution of the country.

Even if the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina ends, he said, it would take time "just to solve problems of succession, of refugees, of rehabilitation, of reconstruction, of sharing the foreign debt, of dividing the assets"

of the former Yugoslav Federation.

But Dr. Ghali played down his testy run-in with Security Council members in July when he chastised Europeans for making decisions on U.N. peacekeeping in Bosnia without consulting him properly.

"I would say that relations are very good, that we are cooperating in a very positive way, that if we disagree from time to time, it is healthy," he said. "It means you have a democratic system."

Dr. Ghali, a former Egyptian deputy prime minister and before that minister of state for foreign affairs, finds working for the 179-member United Nations not all that different from working for one government.

"It is exactly the same diplomacy. In the case of Egypt, I had only two bosses, (President Anwar) Sadat and then (President Hosni) Mubarak. Here you have an indefinite number of bosses, which complicates the rules of game."

"If you pay a visit to Mr. A, you pay a visit to Mr. B... but the technique, I would say is the same, there is no difference. This is diplomacy."

1 dead, many missing in Malacca tanker-container ship collision

SINGAPORE (R) — One body has been found and two survivors picked up after an oil tanker and a container ship collided and burst into flames in the Malacca Strait, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said Sunday.

The two vessels had crews numbering 46.

The U.S. Navy cargo ship Niagara Falls was at the scene conducting search and rescue operations with the help of two helicopters.

"One body has been found in the water. Both ships are on fire. There is no oil slick reported as yet," she said.

She said the 96,000-tonne Liberian-registered Nagasaki Spirit, carrying oil to Brunei from Saudi Arabia, was in collision with the 27,000-tonne Panamanian-reg-

istered container ship Ocean Blessing at 32 minutes after midnight (1632 GMT Saturday).

The tanker's 25-man crew abandoned ship and the two survivors so far reported are aboard a passing tanker, the Mihara Spirit, the spokeswoman said.

"The container ship is described as 'gutted' by those at the scene," she added.

Lloyd's Shipping Casualty Reporting Service in London said the container ship had a crew of 21, according to its Hong Kong owners.

The U.S. embassy official said the Niagara Falls' two sea night cargo helicopters were in the air at the site searching for survivors.

The U.S. ship, attached to the Seventh Fleet, was dispatched

after a request for help from the Japanese owners of the Nagasaki Spirit, the embassy spokeswoman said.

The Seventh Fleet's logistics unit transferred to Singapore from the Philippines earlier this year.

Singapore joined Malaysia and Indonesia Saturday in expressing concern about the possible shipment of weapons-grade plutonium to Japan through the busy Malacca Straits.

"We are concerned about the safety of this shipment. We believe that dangerous materials should not be transported through busy waterways near densely-populated areas," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement.

Super-secret U.S. spy agency acknowledged

WASHINGTON (AP) — For 32 years it didn't exist, its name a whispered shadow, its budget a black hole. When necessary, officials referred to it as "the entity" or "the office."

Bowing to relentless congressional pressure, the Pentagon officially acknowledged the existence of the super-secret agency that buys and operates the nation's spy satellites and its other airborne espionage systems.

Now, for the first time, government officials and members of Congress who have known about it for years can legally speak its name in public.

"Don Altwied, deputy secretary of defence, today announced the declassification of the existence of the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), as recommended by the director of Central Intelligence," said a laconic four-paragraph statement.

The NRO's mission is "to ensure that the U.S. has the technology and spaceborne and airborne assets needed to acquire intelligence worldwide..." the

statement said.

It named the agency director — Martin C. Faga — and its two deputy directors, and provided a coded Pentagon address and a phone number.

All other information about the agency is still a secret, the statement said.

Is it? The NRO's existence was one of the worst kept secrets in Washington. In 1973, a Senate report first revealed the name in a public list — too late for government censors to delete.

It has since appeared in numerous publications, and the secrecy has simply challenged outside experts to explore its mysteries.

One of these experts is Steven Aftergood of the Federation of American Scientists, who estimates the NRO's budget at \$5 billion a year. He said the agency was established in 1960 and is located in room 4C958 of the Pentagon.

George Brown is a California Democrat who resigned his seat on the House Intelligence Committee in 1987 after publicly nam-

ing the NRO on the House floor and causing a furor.

"I'm a troublemaker," he conceded in an interview. Nonetheless, he said, the declassification was "inevitable and long overdue."

Mr. Brown noted that the Soviet Union — the country most targeted by the satellites — knew full well about the NRO's existence many years ago. In fact, the only people in the dark were the American taxpayers who footed the bill, he added.

Although the declassification doesn't go far enough, said Mr. Brown, it is likely to open the door to other information such as the agency's budget.

Advocates of the declassification have long argued that keeping the agency a secret considerably limited scrutiny of its budget and operations — at a time when budgets need to be cut and operations streamlined. The NRO's budget is believed to be the single largest component in the estimated \$30 billion annual intelligence budget — bigger than the CIA's.

Clinton vows to aid defence companies

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas (R) — Bill Clinton is invading President George Bush's defence turf with a key endorsement and a promise to help military-dependent industries adapt to a shrinking Pentagon budget.

Retired Adm. William Crowe, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, was giving his backing to Mr. Clinton Saturday at a news conference at the Arkansas governor's mansion.

As Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush campaigned against each other Friday, supporters of Texas billionaire Ross Perot filed petitions in Arizona, completing an effort to get him on the ballot in all 50 states. Mr. Perot, meanwhile, remained coy about whether he planned to re-enter the presidential race.

Just by appearing on the ballot, he could play a role in battleground states, where draining a percentage point or two from Mr. Bush or Mr. Clinton could swing electoral votes from one side to the other.

Republican strategist Ed Rogers called Mr. Perot's ongoing flirtation with the race an "ego-driven desire to influence who's going to be president of the United States."

Adm. Crowe's endorsement of Mr. Clinton is a coup for the Democratic campaign, coming at a time when the Republicans have been hammering Mr. Clinton for avoiding the draft during the Vietnam War and for offering

differing explanations of how he did it.

On that subject, the New York Times reported Saturday that the Clinton campaign has acknowledged he sought help from the office of then-Sen. J. William Fulbright in 1969 — but only in learning about options to the draft, not in putting pressure on anyone to avoid it.

Sen. Fulbright himself said in an interview from his office in Washington that he didn't remember being approached by Mr. Clinton, one of his former interns, on the draft or any similar subject. Sen. Fulbright, a fierce critic of the war, said he would have told Mr. Clinton to avoid the draft if he had been asked.

The former senator, now 87, said it was "disgraceful" for the issue to be used against Mr. Clinton, adding, "I can see where the president has nothing else to talk about."

Meanwhile, the general who directed the Gulf war, Norman Schwarzkopf, said he believed avoidance of the draft raised serious questions.

"How does a person who admits that he deliberately did not agree with the war, and therefore did not want to go to that war, how does he handle it when he has to lead other people to war?" Gen. Schwarzkopf said in an interview with AP Network News and Newswatch.

"What's he going to do about the people who don't want to go

to that particular war? This is a question that I think needs to be answered by the candidate himself. And there's a lot of other questions along those lines that are in my mind," he said.

The Bush campaign has taped a television ad — not yet aired — in which Good Morning, Vietnam disc jockey Adrian Cronauer, now a Washington, D.C. lawyer, accuses Mr. Clinton of lying.

Adm. Crowe was appointed by President Reagan to the nation's top military post in 1985 and continued to serve at the beginning of Mr. Bush's term. Since his retirement, he has publicly disagreed with Mr. Bush on the president's emphasis on the Star Wars anti-missile programme.

When Congress was considering whether to give Mr. Bush authority to begin the war with Iraq, Adm. Crowe counseled patience.

"War is not neat," he testified. "It's not tidy, and once you resort to it, it's uncertain and it's a mess."

Mr. Perot, appearing on network television programmes Friday, said he wants the two-party system to work and Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton to address the budget deficit problem. At the same time, he said that if his volunteers demand that he re-enter the race, he might comply.

Some states have yet to certify Mr. Perot for the ballot, but his name is expected to appear on all 50 ballots in November.

Miss Florida is new Miss America

ATLANTIC CITY (AP) — Miss Florida, Leanza Cornett, a 21-year-old singer who has pushed AIDS awareness, was crowned the 66th Miss America early Sunday. Miss Cornett was chosen by a panel of celebrity judges from among 10 semifinalists, nine of whom were from the south or midwest. "I'm a very, very blessed girl. Someone that God is smiling on, real big," said Ms. Cornett, the first Floridian to win the contest. The semifinalists were announced after two weeks of primping and posing and a parade of the 50 candidates — one from each state — before a national television audience Saturday night. Miss Iowa, Catherine Ann Lemkau, was the first runner-up; Miss Indiana, Shelli Renee Yoder, was second runner-up; third runner-up was Miss Kansas, Pam McKelvey, and fourth runner-up was Du Sharnae Carter, Miss Oklahoma.

German balloon ditches in Atlantic, crew rescued

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (R) — Two Germans were picked up in the Atlantic by an oil tanker Saturday after their hot-air balloon splashed down during the first-ever trans-Atlantic race in such craft, a Canadian Coast Guard official said. "A lifeboat from the motor tanker Granite has picked them up," a spokesman at the Coast Guard Rescue Centre said. The German balloon had ditched in mid-ocean about 740 miles (1,190 km) off Newfoundland, it said. A Coast Guard official said the balloon hovered about 700 feet (215 metres) above the ocean until it was located by a Canadian C-130 Hercules rescue plane. The two pilots — Erich Krafft and Jochen Mass, a former Grand Prix racing driver — had reported ice and heavy rain was forcing them down as they trailed the four other competitors in the 2,980-mile (4,800-km) race.

World's biggest beer bash opens in Munich

MUNICH (R) — Beer-lovers are expected to quaff over seven million litres of Bavaria's best brews during Munich's 159th annual Oktoberfest festival. City officials say they expect six million visitors to try the beer and hefty Bavarian meals in vast tents set up by Munich's six main breweries or sample the roller coaster and other rides outside. City Councilor Hermann Mummel said the 16-day festival was an economic Bonanza for Munich, both through the money spent there and for hotels and other services off the fair grounds. "You can assume the Oktoberfest will produce an overall turnover of about a billion marks (\$666 million)," he told the Abendzeitung newspaper. The popular daily said 300 million marks (\$200 million) of that sum would be taxed away by the city, state and federal governments. "The state gulps down the most," it wrote.

'Fergie' weeps during speech

BIRMINGHAM, England (R) — Britain's Duchess of York broke down and wept Saturday during her first public appearance since she was pictured coveting topless in the south of France with her American financial adviser. The estranged wife of Queen Elizabeth's second son Prince Andrew was addressing a meeting of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, of which she is patron, in the central English city of Birmingham when her face crumpled and tears began to flow. The flame-haired duchess, popularly known as Fergie from her maiden name Sarah Ferguson, was applauded by the 400-strong audience as she moved away from the rostrum and dabbed her eyes with a handkerchief while she regained her composure. The duchess had started to weep as she described an incident that put into perspective all her troubles since photos of her in intimate poses with American businessman John Bryan were published last month around the world. In her speech, she told of a visit to a woman who is totally paralysed by motor neurone disease. The woman told how a wasp had landed on her nose, but she could do nothing because she could not move. The duchess told the audience: "This put everything into perspective for me. It made me think I have to get myself together and go on and on until we find a cure." Later the duchess received a standing ovation and began to smile again as she left the rostrum.

7 killed in ambush in new Georgia violence

MOSCOW (R) — Rebels in the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia ambushed a bus carrying government troops on Saturday night, killing seven and wounding 14 in fresh violence which further dampened hopes for a lasting ceasefire.

Local journalists Sunday quoted Georgian military authorities as saying the gunmen shot up the bus just outside the Abkhazian city of Gagra on the Black Sea coast.

ITAR-TASS News Agency put the death toll at six and quoted Georgian National Guard duty officer Mirab Topuria as saying the gunmen opened fire from a wood as the bus was passing. He said eight people were missing.

The Georgian embassy in Moscow said earlier that 29 people had been killed in the attack.

Hundreds of people have died in clashes since Georgia's ruling State Council moved troops into Abkhazia last month after the region's parliament demanded more autonomy in July.

Fresh fighting was also reported in the disputed Abkhaz enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh and

Tajikistan, two other ethnic tinderboxes which the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) inherited from the former Soviet Union.

Earlier this month, Russia mediated a general ceasefire agreement between Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze and Vladislav Ardzinba of Abkhazia.

The accord still seems to be holding near the region's capital Sukhumi, but near Gagra — some 90 kilometres north — the latest local ceasefire agreement due to take effect last Tuesday has not been observed.

Topuria said those on board the bus were members of the nationalist "Mkhedroni" (Hotzenbock) group and Alpine troops who had been on their way to reinforce the border with Russia.

Moscow warned Georgia Thursday it would take all necessary measures to protect Russian servicemen and citizens in the Transcaucasian republic.

The Defence Ministry blamed Georgian authorities for the strafing of a Black Sea hydrofoil full of Russian refugees and

holiday-makers last month in which one person was killed and 11 others wounded. Georgia has denied involvement.

In Azerbaijan, another Transcaucasian flash-point, the Turan News Agency said the military high command Sunday ordered Armenia to pull out its forces from Azeri territory within two days or face the consequences.

The agency did not give any more details.

More than 2,000 Armenians and Azeris have been killed in over four years of clashes over Nagorno-Karabakh located in Azerbaijan but populated mainly by Armenians.

Azerbaijan says the Armenian forces fighting in Karabakh are being controlled by the republic, while Yerevan describes them as local inhabitants trying to regain their homeland.

Armenian news agencies said Armenian forces had repelled a major Azeri overnight attack on towns in Karabakh, causing many casualties.

TASS quoted the official Azeri News Agency, Azertinform, as saying dozens of people were

killed Saturday evening when three Armenian helicopters bombed villages in the south-west of the republic.

TASS said the parliamentary leadership in the Central Asian Republic of Tajikistan had convened an emergency meeting to discuss fresh clashes between supporters and opponents of ousted President Rakhmon Nabiyev.

TASS quoted the Interior Ministry as saying many people had been killed in battles for the huge Kulybyshev Collective Farm south of the capital Dushanbe.

It said fighting was still going on around the southern town of Kurgan-Tyube.

The Russian Defence Ministry Friday said its troops had taken control of a key mountain pass separating opponents and supporters of Mr. Nabiyev, overthrown two weeks ago, and had been deployed at the Nurk Power Station.

Mr. Nabiyev, a longtime hard-line Communist, resigned last week at gunpoint in an airport lounge surrounded by armoured cars.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Estonia picks new leaders

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Voters in the tiny Baltic state of Estonia began lining up at polls Sunday to cast their ballots in the first national elections since independence last year. Most non-ethnic Russians were barred from voting. At stake are 101 parliament seats and the presidency of the former Soviet republic across the Baltic Sea from Finland. Estonian observers say people are counting on new leaders to speed up economic and social reforms, and widen the break with former Soviet rule. "Election day will be a historic day that we all will remember for a long time," Estonian Foreign Minister Jan Manitsky said at a news conference Saturday evening. Roughly 600,000 people are eligible to vote out of Estonia's 1.5 million people. Most of Estonia's 400,000 ethnic Russians, Ukrainians and other non-ethnic Estonians have been barred from voting, stirring controversy over the election. There were no early turnout figures. But the Tallinn-based Emor Polling Company said as many as 70 per cent of voters are expected to cast ballots.

Calm returns to Ciskei

BISHO, South Africa (AP) — South Africa's military has offered to help Ciskeian forces maintain order after hundreds of people burned and looted in a homeland township. The rioting Friday followed a funeral for 28 African National Congress (ANC) supporters shot to death by Ciskeian soldiers as they protested on Sept. 7 against the homeland government. Hospital officials in Mdanase, the township where the rioting occurred, said one person died and four were injured by gunfire Friday. Maj. Charles Loxton of the South African military said one Ciskeian policeman fired a shotgun at a mob looting a hotel, and that one injury was reported. He said 15 people were arrested. The homeland was calm Saturday, but Loxton said South African troops would assist homeland forces in keeping the peace if further unrest erupted.

Kohl condemns attacks on foreigners

BONN, Germany (AP) — Chancellor Helmut Kohl has condemned continuing attacks on foreigners in Germany, and the government said it would increase police presence in the eastern states. Attacks on refugees centres continued overnight, including the fifth straight night of violence in Wismar, in northeastern Germany. No injuries were reported. Meanwhile, the head of the country's anti-terrorism office, Eckart Werthebach, said there was no evidence that the approximately 3,000 neo-Nazis in eastern Germany had a central organisation, but there were "connections" with the estimated 1,200 right-wing extremists in West Germany. Speaking at a meeting of his Christian Democratic Union in Suhl, Mr. Kohl said the neo-Nazi attacks were a "disgrace for our country."

Belfast bar hit by bomb attack

BELFAST (R) — A bar in Belfast was hit by a bomb attack but police said there were no casualties. Initially police said they feared there had been a number of people caught up in the blast, which left the city centre bar in flames. But a spokesman said later: "At this point it is not believed anyone was injured." Two men walked into the bar, left the bomb and shouted a warning. There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the attack, although it appeared to be part of Northern Ireland's sectarian and political conflict.



Antonia De Sancha

Actress accuses U.K. minister's rivals on affair

MADRID (R) — Actress Antonia De Sancha was quoted as saying that political rivals of British Culture Minister David Mellor tried to use their affair to destroy his career.

"I don't know who found out about us, but it's clear there are people who want to end his career and I was used by them," the 31-year-old actress told the Spanish newspaper Diario 16.

She said her affair with Mr. Mellor would have passed unnoticed in many countries. "The hypocrisy of the English is such that they confuse morality with life," she told the paper.

"David was the first Englishman I went out with. They are so cold as a race I don't like them. But David had a sense of fun."

Mr. Mellor, officially secretary of state for national heritage but better known as the "minister for fun", offered to resign after Britain's popular press first alleged in July that he had an affair with

the half-Spanish, half-Swedish De Sancha.

He neither confirmed nor denied the press reports and Prime Minister John Major refused to accept his resignation, but speculation persists that he may be forced from office. His portfolio includes sport and the arts. He is also in charge of a review of press intrusions into privacy.

Britain's tabloid press reopened the story last week with claims that Mr. Mellor, 43, who has been married for 18 years, made love to Ms. De Sancha in the kit of his favourite Chelsea Soccer Club and recited Shakespeare to her in the nude.

"He had a sense of humour," she told Diario 16, "in spite of his somewhat strange sexual behaviour."

She said she was sad their relationship ended when the scandal broke, but thanks to the publicity her acting career was thriving.